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Appln. No. : 09/649,121  
Applicant : Da Palma, et al.  
Filed : August 28, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 2141  
Examiner : Bayard, Djenane M.  
  
Docket No. : 6169-170  
IBM Docket No. : BOC9-2000-0037

Confirmation No. 7054

OFFICIAL

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22203-1450

Sir:

I, William V. da Palma, a citizen of Brazil, residing at 5374 Osprey Street, Coconut Creek, FL 33073, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I was employed by International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) of Boca Raton, Florida at the time the above-identified application was conceived and continua to be employed by IBM. I make this declaration in support the above-identified application.

2. IBM has invested substantial time and effort into the research, development, and marketing of their products, and in an effort to protect its rights in all new inventions, IBM requests that all employees prepare and submit IBM Confidential Invention Disclosure Forms upon conception by the inventor(s).

3. As a named co-inventor for this invention, I submitted the attached IBM Confidential Invention Disclosure BOC8-2000-0039.

4. I make this Declaration to establish that I co-conceived of the present invention at least as early as April 24, 2000, and exercised due diligence from prior to

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April 24, 2004 to August 28, 2000, the filing date for the above-identified patent application.

5. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-identified patent application or any patent issuing thereon.

William V. da Palma  
William V. da Palma  
Date: 1/29/04

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF PALM BEACH ) ss:  
)

The foregoing instrument was sworn to and subscribed before me this 23 day of January, 2004, by WILLIAM V. DA PALMA, who is personally known to me or who has produced \_\_\_\_\_ (type of identification) as identification.



Elaine P. Venturini  
NOTARY PUBLIC,  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
Elaine P. Venturini  
(Print, Type or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary  
Public)

(WP166560:1)